

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 14, 2009. Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 10, 12, and 13 remain pending in the application, with Claim 32 having been cancelled herein. Claims 1, 7, and 13 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 10, 12, 13 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action alleged that “a device’s identification information would not need to be acquired *by the device* through a network.” It appears to Applicant that the Examiner may be misunderstanding and/or misinterpreting the claims. According to the claims, the printing apparatus “acquires, via a network, license identification information identifying license information, device identification information and licenses information indicating an amount of a change in right of usage of the program.” As described in relation to Fig. 20, the printing apparatus acquires a license file, which as seen in Fig. 20, includes “LicenseFileID=0x0123456789ABCDEF0123456789ABCDEF”, “DeviceSerialNo=ABC01234567, FTR76543210”. As described at page 53 with regard to Fig. 20, the foregoing DeviceSerialNo “indicates a serial number of a multifunction apparatus that is allowed to install the license file.” As further claimed, this information contained in the acquired license file is compared with the device information of the printing apparatus itself in order to authenticate the license file as being the correct file for the printing apparatus and to perform the license installation for the program. Thus, the claims are correct and the are fully supported by the specification. As such,

reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, first paragraph rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the rejections were based on an interpretation of the claims as being written in means-plus-function terminology. The Office Action suggested rewriting the claims in non-means-plus function language and that suggestion has been adopted. Particularly, each element has been written in definitive structural terms rather than means for terms. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 6 to 8, 12, 13 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0034846 (Beery) in view of Internet Archive Wayback Machine's archive of "Adobe InDesign 1.5" (Adobe), and Claims 4 and 10 were rejected under § 103(a) over Beery in view of Adobe and further in view of Official Notice. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention according to Claim 1 concerns installing program license information in an printing apparatus to increase the amount of allowed usage of the program. According to the invention, the printing apparatus has a management unit that manages a) license information that gives a user authority to use a program and that has already been installed, where the license information indicates an allowed amount of usage of the program on the printing apparatus or a function of the printing apparatus, and b) license identification information corresponding to license information, by using a counter. The printing apparatus acquires, via a network, license identification information identifying license information, device identification information and license information

indicating an amount of a change in a right of usage of the program. A determination is then made whether the acquired license identification information is included in the license information managed by the management unit, and it is also recognized whether the acquired device identification information corresponds to the device identification information of the image forming apparatus. If *both* the license identification information is not included in the management unit, and if the acquired device identification information is recognized as corresponding to the device identification information of the printing apparatus, then the acquired license information is installed to increase the amount of allowed usage of the program by operating the counter. On the other hand, if *either* the acquired license information is determined to be included in the management unit, or if the device identification information is recognized as not corresponding to the printing apparatus, then the acquired license information is not installed.

Claims 7 and 13 are method and computer medium claims that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 7 and 13, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a printing apparatus i) managing in a management unit (a) license information that gives a user authority to use a program for the printing apparatus and that has already been installed in the printing apparatus, the license information indicating an amount of allowed usage of a program executable on the printing apparatus or a function of the printing apparatus, and (b) license identification information corresponding to the license information, wherein the management unit manages the license information by using a counter, ii) acquiring, via a network, license identification

information identifying license information, device identification information and license information indicating an amount of a change in a right of usage of the program, and iii) if it is determined that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is not included in the license identification information managed by the management unit, and if it is recognized that the acquired device identification information corresponds to the device identification information of the printing apparatus, installing the acquired license information to increase the amount of allowed usage of the program by operating the counter, and not installing the acquired license information if it is determined that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management unit or if it is recognized that the acquired device identification information does not correspond to the device identification information of the printing apparatus.

Beery is seen to disclose a system that removes a random chunk of data from executable code so that a user can only use the code if they are successfully authenticated, whereby the missing random chunk of data is then supplied to the user where it can be reassembled for use. Indeed, Beery is not seen to relate to the task of inhibiting the duplicate installation of license information via license identification information as claimed. That is, Beery is not seen to teach the use of license information that give the user authority to use a program, and specifically, Beery is not seen to teach the features of a printing apparatus i) managing in a management unit (a) license information that gives a user authority to use a program for the printing apparatus and that has already been installed in the printing apparatus, the license information indicating an amount of

allowed usage of a program executable on the printing apparatus or a function of the printing apparatus, and (b) license identification information corresponding to the license information, wherein the management unit manages the license information by using a counter, ii) acquiring, via a network, license identification information identifying license information, device identification information and license information indicating an amount of a change in a right of usage of the program, and iii) if it is determined that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is not included in the license identification information managed by the management unit, and if it is recognized that the acquired device identification information corresponds to the device identification information of the printing apparatus, installing the acquired license information to increase the amount of allowed usage of the program by operating the counter, and not installing the acquired license information if it is determined that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management unit or if it is recognized that the acquired device identification information does not correspond to the device identification information of the printing apparatus.

Adobe is really not seen to teach anything more than a general advertisement for a page layout design program. The advertisement fails to teach anything specific as to the workings of the advertised program, and it certainly does not, in any imaginable way, teach technical features that, when combined with Beery, would have resulted in the features of a printing apparatus i) managing in a management unit (a) license information that gives a user authority to use a program for the printing apparatus and that has already been installed in the printing apparatus, the license information indicating an

amount of allowed usage of a program executable on the printing apparatus or a function of the printing apparatus, and (b) license identification information corresponding to the license information, wherein the management unit manages the license information by using a counter, ii) acquiring, via a network, license identification information identifying license information, device identification information and license information indicating an amount of a change in a right of usage of the program, and iii) if it is determined that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is not included in the license identification information managed by the management unit, and if it is recognized that the acquired device identification information corresponds to the device identification information of the printing apparatus, installing the acquired license information to increase the amount of allowed usage of the program by operating the counter, and not installing the acquired license information if it is determined that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management unit or if it is recognized that the acquired device identification information does not correspond to the device identification information of the printing apparatus.

The Official Notice is regarding encryption is noted, but even if such is assumed to have been well known and old in the art, a point which Applicant does not concede, including the Official Notice in combination with the teachings of Beery and Adobe, would not have resulted in the features of a printing apparatus i) managing in a management unit (a) license information that gives a user authority to use a program for the printing apparatus and that has already been installed in the printing apparatus, the license information indicating an amount of allowed usage of a program executable on the printing

apparatus or a function of the printing apparatus, and (b) license identification information corresponding to the license information, wherein the management unit manages the license information by using a counter, ii) acquiring, via a network, license identification information identifying license information, device identification information and license information indicating an amount of a change in a right of usage of the program, and iii) if it is determined that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is not included in the license identification information managed by the management unit, and if it is recognized that the acquired device identification information corresponds to the device identification information of the printing apparatus, installing the acquired license information to increase the amount of allowed usage of the program by operating the counter, and not installing the acquired license information if it is determined that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management unit or if it is recognized that the acquired device identification information does not correspond to the device identification information of the printing apparatus.

In view of the foregoing amendments and deficiencies of the applied art, independent Claims 1, 7 and 13, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Edward Kmett/

Edward A. Kmett
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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